



Senator David G. Argall



29TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

As your State Senator, I look forward to working with all of you to improve the quality of life for local residents, just as my friend Senator Jim Rhoades did for so many years.

As many of you have requested, my top priorities for this session will be tax reform and community revitalization. Homeowners from across the district continue to be hit with steep property tax hikes every year and this is a trend we need to stop. We must find a more fair and equitable way to fund our schools and I have introduced legislation to do just that.

We must also focus on preserving and promoting the economic centers of our communities. The economic downturn has hit many families and businesses hard and we must continue our efforts to revitalize our communities.

I regret the delay in sending this first constituent newsletter to you as your new Senator. As you may know, in August the Governor vetoed the funding for the everyday operations of the Senate and the House in an **unsuccessful** effort to force us to vote for an increase in the state's personal income tax. At the same time, he approved the funding for his own office to continue.

Now that the budget debate has been finally resolved, I hope that you find the enclosed information to be of assistance.

I value your input on the critical issues facing our region, so please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

Senator David G. Argall

Visit SenatorArgall.com For State Services and Information

In addition to contacting one of my local offices, programs are available at my website senatorargall.com. I would encourage district residents to visit the site to learn more about what is going on in Harrisburg and communities across the area.

My website includes links to state information and programs, including birth and death certificates, Property Tax/Rent Rebate forms, PACE and PACENET applications, state tax forms, voter registration and absentee ballot

applications and information on PHEAA and other student loan programs.

My website also features information on the General

Assembly, including the latest news on legislation of interest to district residents, and links to learn more about local municipal government services.



Senator Argall takes the oath of office from U.S. District Judge John E. Jones, III, for his first term representing the 29th District in the Pennsylvania Senate. He was sworn into office using his great-grandmother Schultz's German family Bible, which dates back to the 1800s. He was joined by his wife, Beth, his daughter, Elise, and his parents, Miriam and Arthur.

Senator Argall Appointed Vice Chair of Urban Affairs and Housing Committee

As the Vice Chairman of the Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee and Chairman of the Blight Task Force, my goal is to play a leading role in creating and approving legislation that helps to revitalize our communities in the area.

In addition to these appointments, I have been selected to serve on the Appropriations, Education, Communications and Technology, and Labor and Industry Committees in the Senate. I also serve as a member of the

Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee. Each of these appointments will allow me to focus on issues that are vital to communities in the 29th District. I have introduced Senate Bill 900, known as the Neighborhood Blight Reclamation and Revitalization Act. This legislation would expedite the process of prosecuting owners of blighted properties and give municipalities the authority to go after the financial assets of negligent owners. The bill would clarify the identity of property

owners and hold them responsible for the municipal costs to secure, remediate or demolish blighted structures.

Blighted properties present an imminent danger to many, including children, who see an abandoned building as an exciting opportunity for exploration, not knowing that a serious injury or tragedy could be just a step away. I know because I was a coal region kid who loved to explore abandoned buildings. And, unfortunately, I had plenty of opportunities.



Senator Argall discusses the impact of "blight" in communities across Pennsylvania during a Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Hearing.



Senator Argall with newly-elected Representative Jerry Knowles in June.

Monthly TV Show Highlights District

To help keep residents of the 29th District informed on the important issues facing our area, I host a monthly TV show to highlight local businesses, attractions and legislation of importance to district residents.

The show is carried by local cable companies free of charge. The program airs on **Blue Ridge Communications (Channel 13)** every Tuesday at 9 p.m.; on **Comcast in Pottsville (Channel 7)** every Monday at 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; every Tuesday at 9 a.m. and every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.; in **Reading (Channel 21)** and **Hamburg (Channel 19)** every Monday at 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. and every Tuesday at 9 a.m.

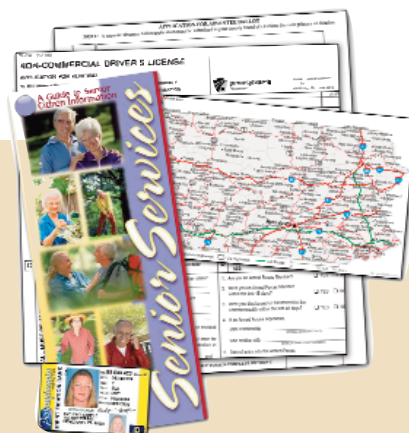
The program is also available on **Service Electric Cable TV, Shen-Heights TV** and **WLYN TV 35** in Hazleton. Please check local listings for air times.

District Offices Ready to Assist Constituents

To help me meet the needs of all 250,000 constituents in all six counties in the 29th District, a number of district offices are available to serve you. In some cases, I have maintained the offices first established by Senator Rhoades. In other cases, I am sharing a local office with another state legislator in order to offer you additional service at no extra cost to the taxpayer. In addition, we have opened a new district office in downtown Pottsville. My district offices provide a wealth of information on many state programs and issues. Senior citizens can receive

help with property tax and rent rebate applications and applications for PACE, Pennsylvania's prescription drug assistance program. There is also information available on other benefits, programs and services available for seniors.

District residents can also pick up copies of maps, absentee ballot applications, voter registration forms, state brochures and public service information. Renewal applications for vehicle and license registrations, state ID cards and other PennDOT paperwork are also available at these locations.



My district offices also provide information and updates on legislation, as well as copies of state laws and pending legislation.

The addresses and phone numbers for all of these offices are included on the next page. I encourage you to contact me or my staff with any questions or concerns about any state agency or program.

Some of the Constituent Services Available at District Offices

- ★ **General assistance with problems you may encounter when dealing with state government and its agencies.**
- ★ **Informational brochures such as:**
 - Guide to benefits and rights for senior citizens.
 - Personal Estate Inventory.
 - Official transportation map from PennDOT.
- ★ **Applications for:**
 - Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program.
 - PACE/PACENET.
 - Notary Public.
 - Copies of birth and death certificates.
 - Child abuse history clearance.
 - Absentee ballot and voter registration forms.
- ★ **Forms for motor vehicle registration, driver's licenses and learner's permits.**
- ★ **Status reports on legislation, copies of House and Senate bills and state laws.**



Senator Argall

29TH DISTRICT OFFICES
Toll Free 1(877) 327-4255

- 1 100 North Centre Street
Pottsville, PA 17901
(570) 621-3400
- 2 Senate Box 203029
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3029
(717) 787-2637
FAX (717) 783-8657
TTY (800) 364-1581
- 3 (Shared with Rep. Jerry Knowles)
237 West Broad Street
Tamaqua, PA 18252
(570) 668-1240
- 4 (Shared with Rep. Jerry Knowles)
209 North Warren Street
P.O. Box 128
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
(570) 366-2735
- 5 One West Centre Street
P.O. Box 150
Mahanoy City, PA 17948
(570) 773-0891
- 6 (Shared with Rep. Jerry Knowles)
61 North Third Street
Hamburg, PA 19526-1501
(610) 562-3411
- 7 (Shared with Rep. Julie Harhart)
125 South Walnut Street (1st floor)
Slatington, PA 18080
(610) 760-9805
- 8 (Shared with Sen. Pat Browne)
Old Route 115 and Route 209
P.O. Box 16
Saylorsburg, PA 18353
(570) 402-1499

Real Property Tax Reform

Property taxes continue to be one of the most important issues for homeowners. We need to take action to reduce the burden during this legislative session because of the failure of past bills to become law. During several recent town hall meetings, district residents have urged me to take a different approach to tax reform to end the debate once and for all.

I have introduced legislation

that would allow voters to make the final decision to eliminate property taxes through a statewide referendum. Unlike many other property tax elimination plans in the Legislature, my bill would also allow the voters to choose from a number of tax reform options to create a more fair and equitable way to fund our public schools.

If voters do not choose to maintain the current property tax

system, the ballot question will offer voters the option to choose one of four most popular tax reform options in the General Assembly as their preferred method of property tax relief.

By providing citizens, not just elected officials, with several options to eliminate or greatly reduce property taxes, I believe that true property tax relief can finally be achieved.

Improving Local Highways and Bridges To Aid Our Local Economy

Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of structurally deficient bridges, and many of our highways are in desperate need of repair. Due to the dire need for transportation infrastructure repairs and improvements, I have introduced legislation that would dedicate an additional \$500 million annually to work on our highways and bridges.

Revenue from the Motor License Fund is currently allocated to the State Police, making up approximately 73 percent of their annual funding. My legislation would gradually shift the responsibility for funding the State Police to the General Fund over the next 10 years, allowing Motor License Fund revenues to be used to maintain and repair our highways and bridges.

Under my bill, an additional \$500 million would be made available each year for highway

and bridge improvements, while the State Police would be fully funded through the General Fund.

You know the need for improved highways in our region. Routes 222 and 61 in Berks and Schuylkill Counties, I-80 in Monroe County, improvements to

the Slatington/Walnutport Bridge in Lehigh and Northampton Counties, Route 443 in Carbon County, and many other secondary roads are in need of funding and repairs.

The need is real – doing nothing is not an option.



PA 61 Bridge Rehabilitation Project (over the Schuylkill River).

